



THE DAMASCUS VETERAN

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus American Legion Post 171, Unit & Squadron

MARCH – APRIL 2013

THE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Fellow Comrades:

January has come and gone, so I'm hoping everyone had a safe, healthy and Happy New Year. This year the Post will be preparing the Pancake Breakfasts. We used to alternate months with the SAL, but their declining membership and difficulty in finding help proved to be too much. Thank you Bill Ferrell, Bill Green, Art Brown, George Richon, Willie Ruffin and Hank Hartley for volunteering your time for this social event.

Keith Midberry did another outstanding job coordinating the Membership Dinner on January 26. Special guests included Gary Vogt, Department 1st. Vice Commander, Gail Murdock, Past Department Commander, Will Trotter, Montgomery County Commander, SMD Chaplain and our Post Adjutant, and Keith's son, MAJ Chris Midberry, Operations Office, 2-504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Div., Ft. Bragg, NC. Chris is also a member of Post 171.



The Super Bowl Party on February was a two way winner, good food and drinks and a win by the Baltimore Ravens. Once again, the Post offered to pay \$100.00 toward the Party, but donations covered expenses.

The Spring Oyster Roast on the February 16th was again a fun and profitable event. Thanks to all who helped with the preparation of the chicken on Friday, till we turned out the lights on Saturday night. Over 225 members and guests were "wined and dined" and then danced to The Second Chance Band. Special thanks to Cindy Ray and the Unit members for the kitchen help, to Bob Ray and the fry room guys, Bill Green and Hank Hartley on pots and pans, Post members for helping with the bartending duties, and 2nd Vice, Ching Yu for coordinating the event. The next event will be the Shrimp Feast on April 27th.

February 16th, Bernie Moxley championed a WWII Veterans Recognition Day at the Post. Twenty three Veterans from that era attended and were treated to a delicious lunch and entertainment. They were also invited to tell some of their experiences before, during and after WWII. Those stories were most interesting and entertaining. They, and the other attendees, were quite delighted by the Belly Dancers. Door prizes were donated by Damascus Community Bank, and other individuals in the Post and Unit. Thanks Bernie to you and your family and the Unit ladies for decorating, preparing the food and providing the desserts.

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America

Sam Baughman, Commander

IN MEMORIAM

John Tippet
Orville Martin
Bill Rice
Nick Simon

MEMBERSHIP DINNER

The January 26th membership dinner was a great evening for the 105 members and guests who attended! Department of Maryland Vice-Commander Gary Vogt, Past Department Commander Gail Murdock and County Commander Will Trotter were in attendance along with several Unit guests. Major Chris Midberry of the 82nd Airborne Division, a 10 year member of the Post, was the honored active duty guest and was recognized for his service in Iraq and recently in Afghanistan. Three (of twenty) new members were recognized and the following Post members received high level recognition awards. Pictures of the evening are being included in an electronic only document being emailed in addition to the Newsletter.

Honorary Life Membership Award – Ronald Scott (see follow-on remarks).

Distinguished Member Award – Robert Bellison, James Moore (deceased) and Gene Hoyle (deceased)

Legionnaire of the Year – Hank Hartley

Keith Midberry, Membership Chairman

Ronald Scott becomes 63rd Honorary Life Member

(Remarks by Keith Midberry Jan. 26, 2013)

This award is the highest honor the Post can bestow on a fellow Legionnaire. Per the Post by-laws, every member is considered for this award although there is no requirement that a yearly selection be made. Selection is not based on any specific criteria such as age, years in the Legion, the number of Post offices held, committees participated in, or number of meetings and functions attended. Instead, the qualifications can best be summed up as someone who best exemplifies and demonstrates consistent and exceptional devoted service to the Post and the American Legion above and beyond that of many other dedicated Post members. It is interesting to note that recipients of this honor routinely say how surprised they are to receive it, yet to the rest of the membership, it is rarely a surprise.

In the 67 year history of the Post, only 62 Life Memberships have been awarded, an average of less than one per year. The names and war era of our Life Members are on a plaque mounted next to the past Post Commanders plaque. Sadly, more than two thirds have gone on to Post Everlasting including four since this time last year – Ken Diggs, Marvin Meyers, Jim Moore and Orville Martin.

Our newest and 63rd Life Member was born in Mt. Airy, NC and has been a Legionnaire for 25 years. A Viet-Nam era veteran, he served in the Air Force from 1958 - 1962. His final duty station was Ft. Meade, MD. He then started a law enforcement career, serving 23 years as a Montgomery County Police Officer before retiring as a Detective Sgt. in 1986. While working full time he completed a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Univ. of MD in 1977.

Upon transferring to Post 171 in 2005 from Post 191 in Mt. Airy, he quickly became involved with the oyster and shrimp feasts during a time when the financial success of these fund raisers was critical for the Post. In 2009 he stepped up and served three consecutive tours as 1st Vice Commander. He is a familiar face at all Post events and has worked the Vegas table at Bingo on Thursday nights for several years. Though

unassuming, he is a tireless workhorse for the Post, always willing to put on his Legion cap for an event or roll-up his sleeves to get something done!

He exemplifies the qualities of volunteerism, compassion and patriotism to his country, family and fellow Legionnaires. One of the three Musketeers, Ron Scott!



Ron “Scotty” Scott thanks the Post for his recognition as an Honorary Life Member, the highest award a Legionnaire can receive.

BASEBALL REPORT

By: Chairman Bob Bellison



As I’m writing this it looks like a “Winter Wonderland” out my window. However, we know that spring is just around the corner. High schools in Md. are allowed to begin baseball try-outs March 1st. However, just one pretty sunny day will give us “Spring Fever” and with that comes baseball.

Again this year our Legion teams will draw players from the geographical area of Damascus HS, Sherwood HS and Clarksburg HS. Fortunately, all have the same coaches Greg Blake DHS, Shawn Davis SHS and Matt Derrick CHS, and all are former Legion players. They are all very appreciative and highly supportive of our Legion baseball program. We are also very fortunate to have the same coaching staffs returning with Jr. Team Head Coach Frank Wodoslawsky and Sr. Team Head Coach Tommy Davis and their staffs. This continuity is very important to the success of our program. League schedules are not available yet, however the Sr. Team has scheduled non-league games with Mt. Airy, Frederick, and Leesburg, Va. They will also be in the Frederick Legion Post 11 July 4th Tournament. This tournament will include some of the top teams in the 4 state area including the 2012 World Series runner-up from Woodlawn, NJ. The Jr. Team has already entered the Memorial Day Tournament at Frederick and the Potomac Jr. Legion Mt. Classic July 4th Tournament to be held at the new Hot Stove Complex in Cumberland. This year’s State Tournament will be hosted by Post 13 in Cumberland.

This year our Sr. Team will have 13 returning players, including the entire pitching staff. Also, there are several young players waiting their chance to compete for a spot on the roster. *I’m already exited! Pack your bags and let’s get ready to head up to Cumberland in July.* Try-outs for both teams will be held Sun. April 28th; Jr. Team at DHS & Sr. Team at SHS. Times are TBD.

2013 Membership Year – Running Behind this Year!

Thanks to everyone who has *already* paid their 2013 dues! We currently have 345 paid members towards our goal of 408 which is 15 *behind* where we were this time last year. If you are one of the 48 members who have still not paid your 2013 dues, PLEASE renew your membership by sending a check for \$25 to the post, or pay on-line at <http://www.legion.org/renew>. This site allows you to print a temporary membership card. I will send your permanent card when I am notified of your renewal by the Department . You can also renew at the Department of MD website - <http://www.mdlegion.org>. Delinquent letters have been sent (time, paper, stamps!) yet even if everyone renews we will be short of goal by 10-12. Please consider signing up and even paying the first year dues of a relative, neighbor or co-worker who is an eligible war-era veteran. I strongly recommend that anyone who wants to not worry about paying future dues consider a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) membership. If you would like to know what it costs (based on age) contact me and I will send you an application form with the dues info. Keith Midberry, Membership Chairman, kmidberry@yahoo.com or (301) 916-7929

Addresses of deployed service members: Consider dropping a note or card to express thanks for their service! The Post welcomes cash donations that will be used to purchase items for care packages sent routinely to deployed members.

Afghanistan

HM2 Ryan Canoza
MWSS-373 DET A (HQ)
UNIT 4117
FPO AP 96427-1117

DAMASCUS AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 SHRIMP FEAST

The Shrimp dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27, 2013**. We serve fried and steamed shrimp, and fried chicken, cole slaw, potato salad, baked beans, a cheese platter and a veggie platter, and rolls and butter. This is one of our Post's major fund-raisers, and we need the membership's help talking it up and selling tickets.

We also need help before, during, and after the dinner.

This is a great evening for food and dancing. Yes-- we have the Second Chance Band to play dance music from 7:15 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Price for this fun evening is **\$27 per person in advance and \$32 at the door**.

Please contact me about questions or tickets.
Dinner Chairman, Ching Yu, 240-668-4080

SHRIMP FEAST
April 27, 2013
DINNER 6 PM

Advance Tickets at \$27/ea. _____, \$ _____

Tickets at the door are \$32/ea.

**Contact Ching Yu for tickets,
or any Post 171 Member.**

Tel. # for Ching: 240-668-4080

Damascus Post 171 Honors WWII Veterans

Twenty-two World War II era veterans, including members of area Legion posts, gathered at the Post Home on Presidents Day at a special tribute program. The creator of this event was PPC Bernie Moxley, who served as the master-of-ceremonies. About 100 Legionnaires, families, and friends attended.

Auxiliary Unit 171 member Pat Kenney laid out beautiful displays of WWII memorabilia, and PPC Bill Raab, and Post member Keith Midberry and others provided commemorative books and other items from the WWII era. Unit members decorated the tables and provided sweet treats, creating a festive, patriotic setting in the Hall. Door prizes were donated by the Damascus Community Bank, Janet Taylor, Unit members Pat Kenney Maureen Appleby, and Unit member Judy Moore, in memory of her husband Jim, a WWII veteran and Post member who recently transferred to Post Everlasting. Maureen donated a beautiful painting done by her father, a WWII veteran. A young admirer named Travis Aldous brought his young son along and provided a beautiful sketch of the WWII Memorial in Washington for each honoree.

The event began with a delicious fried-chicken and roast pork meal with tasty trimmings prepared by Bernie Moxley's sister Shirley and her family. The buffet was served with help from Auxiliary Unit 171 members Liz Popowsky, Linda Richon, Roz Bowman, Sandy Seipp, and Mary Bolling. These gals also did clean-up duty afterwards. Thanks to all!

Those attending were then treated to some special entertainment by a group of five lovely young ladies who performed classic dancing routines. No doubt recalling some of their memories from serving overseas, our WWII vets enjoyed their performance immensely.

Post Chaplain Shawn Gill opened the program with a prayer focused on our honored guests' service during WWII. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, and welcome by Post Commander Sam Baughman, Unit member Linda and Post member George Richon introduced Phil Garvey from the VA Martinsburg and Jim Lichtinger of the Maryland Veterans' Affairs. Both representatives spoke briefly about services and benefits, provided literature, and answered questions from attendees after the program.

Then, our honored guests were invited to assemble at the front of the Hall. In an informal session, Post member and active duty Army Colonel Bernie Moxley Jr., and PPC George Bolling interviewed the WWII veterans. Few questions were necessary because the heroes quickly volunteered to take their turns to describe their most memorable moments during the WWII era, some very serious and somber, some humorous, all most meaningful. About half the vets were volunteers, the rest were drafted. They served in the Army, Army Air Corps, Navy and the Marine Corps in the European, Pacific and China-Burma-India Theaters and in the USA. Several are decorated combat veterans of famous battles like Iwo Jima and Battle of the Bulge, and others served in support roles at home and abroad. As we told them, they were all essential to our freedom, making sure we aren't goose-stepping fascists today. In closing the program, each honoree was presented the famous "Ruptured Duck" medal for WWII veterans signifying their service and sacrifices, and these warriors of The Greatest Generation modestly accepted the accolades and applause of a grateful group of admirers after a memorable day of recognition.

--PPC George Bolling

AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIPS 2013

The Damascus American Legion Post 171 will be awarding four scholarships in the amounts of \$1,500 each for the scholastic year of 2013-2014. Applicants will be judged on scholastic achievement, leadership, character, work experience, and school and community activities. Complete details are listed on the scholarship application, which may be picked up at the career centers in Damascus HS, Clarksburg HS,

Seneca Valley HS or the American Legion Post Home. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 19, 2013. Additional questions may be directed to Lou Popowsky (301-37106648 or popowsk@yahoo.com).

Lou Popowsky, Scholarship Committee Chairman

Dear American Legion Post 171 Friends and Family.

Thank you so much for your prayers, cards, calls, flowers, food and sympathy during the recent illness and passing of my husband, Jim Moore. He loved the American Legion and his country very much. He appreciated so much your visits and all the various activities of the American Legion. Thank you for all your concerns.

Sincerely,
Judy Moore & Family

Editor's note: I apologize to Judy Moore and her Family for not including this note in the January Newsletter. It had gotten misplaced in my pile of papers and wasn't found until after the January newsletter had been printed.



American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 171
A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Unit 171

MARCH – APRIL 2013

Dear Officers, members, and friends,

On February 1, 2013, I lost my husband and soul mate, Bill. He was a very proud and dedicated Legionnaire who loved his family, friends and his fellow Comrades. Thank you for all of your love, concern, many cards, visits, phone calls, prayers, and home-cooked meals. Thank you, too, to everyone who participated in the Legion's Post Everlasting Service, his funeral Mass, burial, and reception. My family and I humbly thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Please pray for the repose of his soul and please keep us in your prayers. God bless you.

Pat Rice

UNIT 171 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Happy Spring. Our Unit's paid membership is gradually creeping up the ladder. Please check that your membership card is for 2013. If not, please send a check, made payable to Damascus American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 in the amount of \$20, to me at 19421 Gardner Place, Germantown, MD 20876-1709. We need sixteen more renewals to reach our Goal and one more to make Goal Plus.

Welcome new member Marianne DiSoma who comes in our Unit under her father who was a World War II veteran and is now deceased. If you want to know something about Marianne, ask Judy Moore.

Let's give our President Pat that ribbon at the convention in July; she deserves it after all that she has been through.

At Pat's request I am sending a special thank you to Barbara and Bill Raab, Betty Nicholson, and Sandy Seipp for their help with the reception after Bill's funeral. Pat, Teresa and the family really appreciated your services.

I personally want to thank the oyster patters: Delores Neal, Joann Kessler, Ray Mullican, Betty Nicholson, Ruby Bellison, June Toms, and Jen Shaffer for patting and mixing the oysters. Margaret Nicholson never fails me in making the salad and cole slaw. I assisted her this time. The evening help was also out in full force: Mary Bolling dipping stew, Mary Robinson and Joann Kessler serving chicken, June Toms serving oysters, Casey Koontz keeping the stew on the table for pick-up, Judy Moore and Dee Myers keeping the bowls and relish trays filled. To all of you THANK YOU, THANK YOU. I really appreciate you being there.

A Happy Saint Patrick's Day and God bless you, our troops wherever they and their family's may be.

Yours in Service,

Cindy Ray

AUXILIARY "BASKET, BAGS & BUCKS" BINGO

Saturday, March 23, 2013

By Casey Koontz, Chairperson

The Auxiliary will hold our annual Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, March 23, 2013. The bingo will consist of regular bingo games, raffles, specials, and King Tutt games. Again this year we are featuring Longaberger baskets, Vera Bradley Bags, cash and other prizes.

A special game will be played for those who bring a canned good or non-perishable food item to be donated to Damascus HELP. One card will be given for each item brought in.

The snack bar will be serving hot and cold food items a la carte and dinner platters will be available for \$7.00.

The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. We will play 20 regular games, plus several special games.

We are looking for sponsors to cover the cost of our prizes. This year sponsorships will be accepted at the following levels: Platinum - \$100+, Gold - \$75+, Silver - \$50+ and Bronze - under \$50 donation. All sponsors will be acknowledged in the Program and announced at the bingo. If you are interested in being a sponsor or working as a volunteer at the event please contact Casey at (301) 831-6746.

This is our big fundraiser for the year the proceeds from this event aid us in making our charitable donations and funding our scholarships.

The tickets are \$15.00 and are sold **only in advance and seating is limited**. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jen Shaffer (301) 829-8487 or Judy Moore (301) 829-1944 or mail the slip below to: ALA Unit 171 at PO Box 171, Damascus, MD 20872, ATTN Jen Shaffer.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Number of Tickets _____ Total Amount \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: ALA Damascus Unit 171 (earmarked – Basket Bingo)

POCKET FLAG PROJECT

Liz Popowsky, Chairman

The Unit continues to support the Pocket Flag Project. To date, 575 pocket flags have been mailed to troops overseas, including 400 to equip an entire base in Afghanistan. Folding is currently underway to provide flags to the Units of two overseas Post 171 members. Please contact me at 301-371-6648 if you have information on a deployed Unit to which we can provide this small token of our appreciation for their service.



Sons of the American Legion Squadron, 171

A Newsletter for Members & Friends of Damascus Squadron 171

MARCH – APRIL 2013

Greetings from SAL Squadron 171

On Saturday January 28th the SAL recognized three new members that have joined the Squadron this year. Donald J. (D.J.) Mook, Adam Young, and Brosh Boshier. These three young men are just what the Squadron is looking for. They have all been active in various ways, and we look forward to much future success with additions of members like this.

We are currently half way towards full membership renewal so if you still have not renewed, make sure you get it in to us. Membership is our key to building a successful future so if you know of anyone who would like to become a member please sign them up.

We are discussing performing a flag retirement ceremony, and it would be a great program to start in our Legion Family. We are also planning another golf tournament and are looking for ideas for other fundraisers as well as ways to get more members participating in these events.

The kitchen snack bar on Thursday nights is our biggest fundraiser and we are looking for major help for both the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month anytime from 5-9pm. We would be lost without the help of key Post and Unit members who have come to our rescue.

Just a reminder that the SAL can attend and help with any Legion Family function and help is always needed.

If there are any ideas or comments please email johnboy42081@yahoo.com so I can get in contact with you.

Looking forward to the rest of the year,
John Wayne



OUR WWII VETERANS



COMING EVENTS
Post, Unit & Squadron 171 Calendar

Post Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

Unit Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:30pm

Squadron Meetings

2nd Monday of the month, 7:00pm

MARCH 2013

Date Event

4 th	Post Executive Board Mg.	7:00 pm
7 th	Post Bingo.	7:00 pm
9 th	Post Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
10 th	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
11 th	Pot Luck Dinner	6:00 pm
11 th	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
11 th	Post and Unit Membership Mtgs.	7:30 pm
14 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
17 th	St. Patrick's Day	
21 st	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
23rd	Unit Basket Bingo	7:00 pm
29 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
31 st	Easter	

April 2013

Date Event

1 st	Post Ex. Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
4 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
8 th	SAL Membership Mtg.	7:00 pm
8 th	Post and Unit Membership Mtgs.	7:30 pm
11 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
13 th	Post Pancake Breakfast	7:30 – 9:30 am
18 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
19 th	Deadline for Scholarship Applications	
25 th	Post Bingo	7:00 pm
27th	Shrimp Feast	6:00 pm

Looking Ahead

May 27 – Memorial Day

Damascus American Legion, Post 171
P.O. Box 171
Damascus, MD 20872



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Post Home Location: 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872 – Phone: 301 253-0769
<https://www.facebook.com/DamascusPost171>

American Legion Post 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	Sam Baughman	301 831-3216	Historian	Ed Williams	301 865-4250
1st V. Cmdr.	Willie Ruffin	301 972-5798	Chaplain	Shawn Gill	301 253-6239
2nd V. Cmdr.	Ching Yu	240 668-4080	Sgt-at-Arms	Bill Green	301 253-5420
Judge Advocate	Dean Elliott	240 793-6868	Ex. Comm.:	Bill Ferrell	301 253-6389
Adjutant	Will Trotter	301 661-6902		Ernie Screen	301 253-3560
Treasurer	Tony De Shiro	843 855-9353		Buzz Burroughs	301 253-2741
Serv. Officer	Bob Ray	301 972-1978		Ronald Scott	301 831-7974

Auxiliary, Unit 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

President	Pat Rice	301-253-2266	Color Bearers:	Liz Popowsky	301 371-6648
V. President	Cindy Ray	301 972-1978		Terri Nucio-Youngs	301 216-0221
Secretary	Rosalyn Bowman	301-253-4473	Exec. Comm.:	Judy Moore	301 829-1941
Treasurer	Linda Richon	301 253-5466		Betty Nicholson	301 865-1638
Chaplain	Jennifer Shaffer	301 829-8487		Barbara Raab	301 330-5447
Historian	Virginia Myers	301 831-9188			
Sgt-at-Arms	Casey Koontz	301 831-6746			

SAL Squadron, 171

2012 – 2013 Officers

Commander	John Duvall	301 787-4480	Chaplain	OPEN	
1st V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Sgt-at-Arms	Drew Shaffer	301 831-535
2nd V. Cmdr.	OPEN		Historian	OPEN	
Adjutant	OPEN		Post liaison	George Boling	301 980-8917
Finance	Tony Koontz	240 439-9501			

Newsletter Editor: Lou Popowsky tel. 301-371-6648 email popowsk@yahoo.com